

APPLICANT: Horan, et al. : BEFORE THE PRIMARY  
U.S. Serial No. 09/470,360 : EXAMINER: T. Victor OH  
FILING DATE: December 22, 1999 :  
RE: PROCESS IMPROVEMENT FOR : GROUP ART UNIT: 1621  
CONTINUOUS ETHYL ACETATE :  
PRODUCTION :

Per Fax Transmission to no. 703-308-4556  
Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant's Docket No. C-7197

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REMARKS**

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment, filed together with a continued prosecution application (CPA) for continuation application under 1.53(d) of priority case USSN 09/470,360. Please amend the present continuation application as noted.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 1-5 and insert the following new claims 6-11. A marked-up version of the claims is attached in APPENDIX A entitled: "MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS."

6. A process for producing ethyl acetate comprising:
- (a) contacting acetic acid and ethanol in a reaction zone in the presence of a catalyst;
  - (b) directing vapors formed in the reaction zone to a distillation means to form an azeotrope containing 10 wt. % or less of water;
  - (c) condensing the azeotrope to form an condensate;
  - (d) separating the condensate into an organic phase rich in ethyl acetate and an aqueous phase rich in water; and
  - (e) directing at least a portion of the organic phase to the reaction zone.
7. The process of claim 6 wherein at least a portion of the organic phase is directed to a membrane separation unit to form a dried organic stream.
8. The process of claim 7 wherein at least a portion of the dried organic stream is directed to the distillation means.
9. The process of claim 8 wherein at least a portion of the dried organic stream is directed to the reaction zone.

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FILING DATE: 12/22/1999 :  
RE: PROCESS IMPROVEMENT FOR : GROUP ART UNIT: 1621  
CONTINUOUS ETHYL :  
ACETATE PRODUCTION :

*Per Facsimile to No. 703-305-7401*  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant's Docket No. C-7197C2

### COMMUNICATION

Dear Sirs:

Applicants thank Examiner Oh for the teleconference of today and notice that a response is outstanding for the application filed 2/19/02. I was unaware of the Office Action of 3/22/02 until today.

This CPA is filed in response to the Office Action of 03/22/02. Also enclosed is a 3-month Extension of Time to respond thereto.

Respectfully Submitted,



M. Susan Spiering  
Attorney for Applicants

ATTORNEY US PTO Reg.No.: 34,933

Celanese Ltd.  
P.O. Box 9077  
Corpus Christi, TX 78469-9077  
Tel: (361) 242-4648  
Fax: (361) 242-4084

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